



## Your State Representative Deb Wallace

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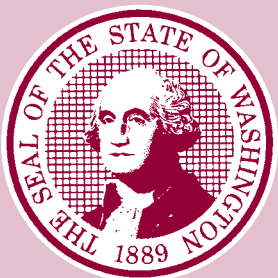
<http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/>

#### Committees:

- Vice-Chair, Transportation Committee
- Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture Committee
- Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

#### Sign up for my E-memo!

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<http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/> or send me an e-mail at  
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## State Representative 17th Legislative District

# Deb Wallace

## 2005 Legislative Accountability Report

Dear Neighbors,

We finished the 2005 Legislative Session on time, one of the few times in state history. In addition to saving taxpayers money, we also stayed focused on key state issues by ending on time.

As I did last year, I am sending out an accountability report on the highlights of the 2005 session. We made good progress in improving education, making government more open and accountable, increasing job opportunities, and finding health care solutions. I encourage you to contact me, because I value your opinions and it helps me better serve as your representative.

Best regards,

Deb Wallace

### WASHINGTON STATE — ACCOUNTABILITY

I believe we need to keep state government open, useful and accessible.

That's why I serve on the Legislature's accountability committee. In the 2005 session, I supported several new ways to make sure you receive the best, most cost-effective services from the state. I also backed a number of bipartisan reforms to our election system, to make elections more accurate and efficient. We passed:

✓ **Performance audits.** We need to know Washingtonians are getting the services they need and the value they deserve. The 2005 Legislature required independent assessments of state agencies and programs—performance audits—so we can improve state services. Seven citizen members will be appointed for the independent board. You can read more on the State Auditor's website: [www.sao.wa.gov/PerformanceAudit](http://www.sao.wa.gov/PerformanceAudit)

✓ **Better government management.** Another reform uses a rapid response system to streamline state government. It achieved success in New York City and Baltimore. Now Washington State is the first in the nation to implement this program.

✓ **Election reform.** In the 2004 election, problems emerged in the way voters are identified and votes are counted. We passed several reforms to address the real problems, while protecting the rights of legal voters. We:

- Required standardized procedures for ballot counting in all counties, with regular audits by the Secretary of State.
- Required voter identification at the polling places.
- Established standards for verification of signatures.
- Required provisional ballots to be distinguishable from regular ballots and counted separately.
- Required and funded a statewide voter database to frequently update voter rolls, and compare them to deaths, felons, and other lists.
- Made it easier for counties to move to all-mail elections, if they choose.

We are still working on election reform issues, so look for additional positive changes.



### JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLARK COUNTY

Quality of life starts with having a good job. In 2005, we increased job opportunities through innovative ideas and investments in Clark County.

✓ Started a life sciences fund, to drive research and progress toward cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer and other debilitating diseases.

✓ Created a program to match savings for low-income individuals to start a business or improve their lives, called Individual Development Accounts.

✓ I sponsored a grant program to fund small business service support. The funding supports business training and development. Small businesses can use these services, from marketing to payroll, and it's a good way for the state to give them support.

✓ Invested in \$10 million for repairs at the Salmon Creek sewage treatment plant, through the Public Works Trust Fund.

✓ Invested in Clark County through the capital budget:

- \$14.4 million for WSU-Vancouver expansion and almost \$2.4 million for Clark College
- \$2 million for the Lewis & Clark bicentennial project, and \$1 million for Fort Vancouver restorations, to draw tourists
- \$1.7 million for local parks



### GOOD NEWS

Last year, the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council published its Small Business Survival Index 2004, which ranked Washington as having one of the most business-friendly environments in the nation.

### BETTER SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Our Clark County communities are the fastest-growing in the state, and we have to prepare for the flood of new students. In the 2005 Legislature, I supported strong measures to help our schools and teachers:

✓ **More spaces for students in colleges and universities, and expanded opportu-**

**nities for students seeking higher education.** Higher education plays a vital role in our state's future success. We opened 9,950 new enrollment spaces in colleges and universities, and allowed more colleges and branch campuses to provide classes leading to four-year degrees. In southwest Washington, we are turning WSU-Vancouver into a four-year university, a necessity for our rapidly-growing area.

✓ **Full funding of voter-approved education initiatives.** We paid for

reducing classroom sizes and the first salary increase for teachers in four years.

✓ **A record-setting school construction budget.** The state matches local funds for school buildings, and this year we put over \$619 million into school construction, the most in state history.

Our kids shouldn't have to learn in portables and crumbling classrooms. As a bonus, every dollar in school buildings means more good construction jobs.

### Construction = Jobs

A recent University of Washington study found that every \$1 million in construction spending creates 30 jobs in the construction, support, and retail industries. According to the study, the capital budget will create upward of 100,000 jobs statewide, with more than 30,000 additional jobs added by local-school matching funds.

### MAKING HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

We all face the rising cost of health care, and the danger of losing insurance coverage plagues too many people in our state. I supported several measures to improve both health and public safety, although there is much work to be done:

✓ Opened up health care for 40,000 more low-income children.

✓ Expanded access to lower-cost prescription drugs through bulk purchasing, and promoted the ability to purchase drugs from Canadian pharmacies.

✓ Restricted meth ingredients, to combat this growing crisis and protect our families.





# Rep. Deb Wallace • 2005 Legislative Accountability Report

## TRANSPORTATION: Saving Lives, Moving People, Delivering Goods

As vice-chair of the House Transportation Committee, I worked hard to improve transportation systems in our state, and carefully weighed the decision to support the 2005 transportation plan. It is critical to support our transportation system because:

### Safety First.

Lives are at risk. In 2005 we emphasized safety throughout the entire state. We will replace 27 failing bridges, improve road and pedestrian safety around schools, build more passing lanes and road improvements, remove roadside hazards and give significant funding to cities and counties to fix local roads, in addition to major projects.

**Transportation improvements are critical for economic development.** Businesses need to get products to their customers and through the deepwater ports. Transportation projects mean more jobs, as well. The Washington Alliance for a Competitive Economy estimated that the 2005 Transportation Act will result in **an average 8,800 jobs a year for ten years!** In the peak year 2008, the projects will deliver over 14,000 new jobs.



**Accountability is built in.** The Legislature and the state auditor must review the projects.

**It's truly a statewide plan.** More than 200 projects in every corner of the state will receive funds. Every county and city will also get direct funding to address important local road priorities. In our area, we funded:

- \$58 million for work on the **I-205 and Mill Plain interchange**
- \$50 million to start the new **I-5 bridge project to span the Columbia River**
- \$50 million for begin the widening of **State Route 502 from I-5 to Battle Ground**
- These local projects and others include:
  - **I-205/Mill Plain interchange to 28th St.**
  - **I-205/Mill Plain SB off-ramp improvements**
  - **I-205/SR-500 interchange improvements**
  - **SR-503/SR-500 intersection improvements**
  - **SR-503/Brush Prairie to Battle Ground median barrier**
  - **I-5/Salmon Creek interchange improvements**
  - **SR-14 Camas/Washougal widening**
  - **SR-14 Lieser Rd. interchange ramp-signalization**
  - **SR-502/I-5 to Battle Ground widening**
  - **SR-502/10th Ave. to 72nd Ave. improvements**

## • COMMUNITY ACTION SERIES •

I represent you up in Olympia, but I'm also a member of the community. That's why I'm hosting a series of community action forums to give helpful information about important topics. Recently, we heard ideas about protecting ourselves from identity theft. In the fall, I look forward to learning ways to help children succeed in school.

I hope you'll join me for these Community Action forums. If you can't make it, I will send ideas and highlights in my e-newsletter (sign up at <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/>) and post them on my website.

### Identity Theft

ID theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in our area and in the U.S. The facts are alarming: the crime has increased from 10,000 cases in 1995 to over 9 million in 2004. Our state is 8th in the nation for ID thefts.

At the June 9 Community Action forum, representatives from the State Patrol, the Attorney General's office, and local authorities gave us ways to avoid and deal with ID theft. Here are some of the ideas:

– Everyone is entitled to one free credit report per year. In the past consumers had to send in a written request, but now can receive it online: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

– To “opt-out” of having pre-approved credit offers sent to your home, call 1-888-567-8688.

– To stop telemarketers, register for the Do Not Call list at: 1-888-382-1222 or [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)

– You can find more ideas at: [www.atg.wa.gov/consumer/idprivacy/](http://www.atg.wa.gov/consumer/idprivacy/)

## Upcoming Community Action Forums

Speakers, times and locations to be announced.

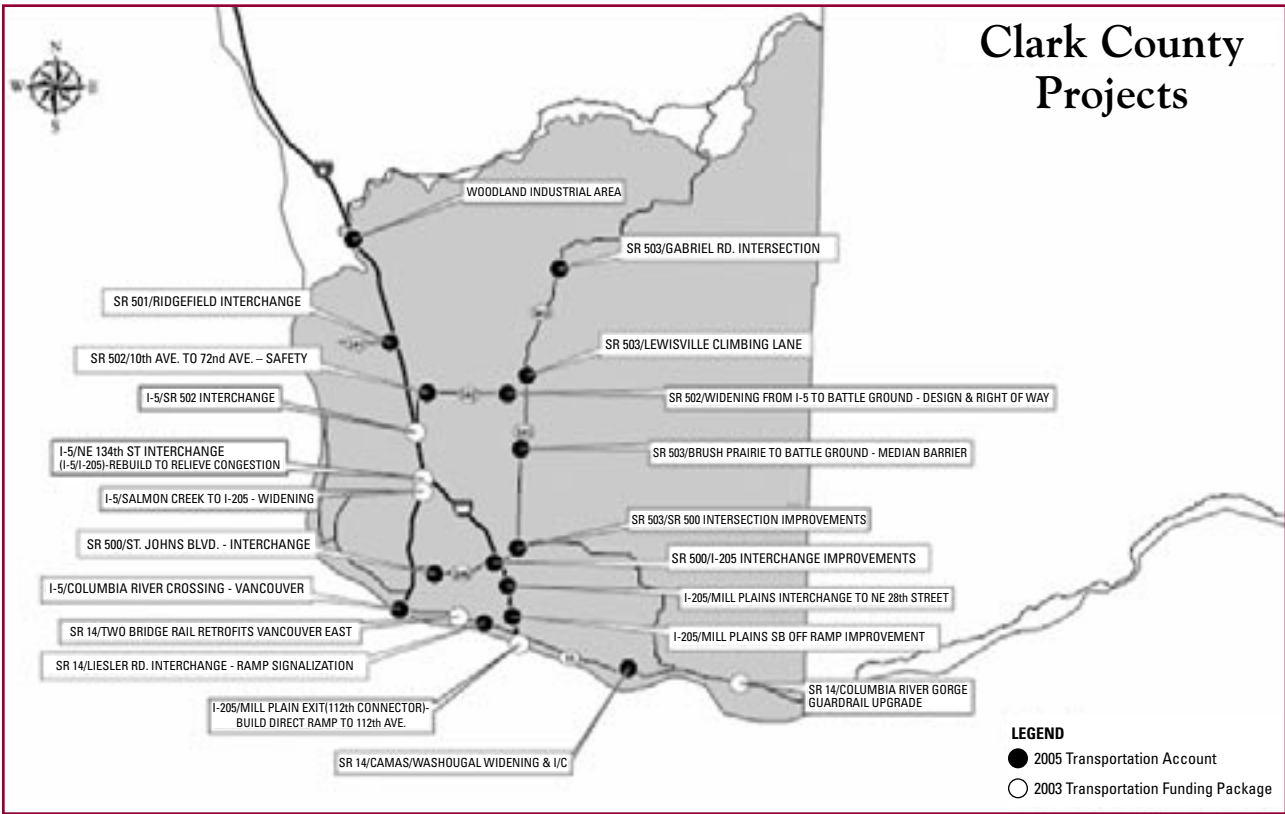
### Mark your calendar!

**September 29, 2005:**  
**Getting Ready for School**

Tips on early learning and preparing children for school. Did you know the sounds a child hears between birth and 3 will largely determine the size of her adult vocabulary? When young children are spoken to regularly, their conceptual thinking skills are enhanced.

**October 27, 2005:**  
**Preparing Students for the 21st Century**

Parent and student resources on succeeding in school, including information on the WASL test, math and science education and key skills for the new economy.



## Clark County Projects



Members of the Clark County Non-Profit Network meet with Deb in Olympia.

## RESOURCES

For Clark County, state government, and other helpful resources, please visit my website at <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/>



Community Action Series – Look inside for details